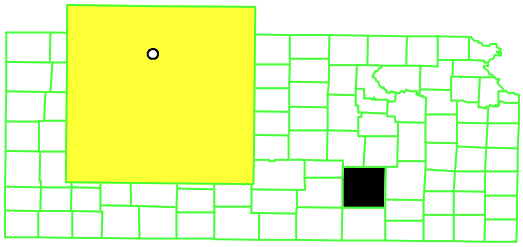
PESTER REFINERY CO.

KANSAS
EPA ID# KSD000829846

EPA Region 7
City: El Dorado
County: Butler County
Other Names:



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Pester Refinery Co. site occupies 10 acres in El Dorado. Refinery operations began in 1917. Refining wastes have been stored in a burn pond and these materials periodically were ignited through the mid-1970s. The burn pit is adjacent to the West Branch of the Walnut River, which is used for recreational activities. In 1987, the Kansas Department of Health and the Environment (KDHE) found seepage from the impoundment entering the river, and later the same year, confirmed contamination of the river. Seepage from the burn pond has been diked, forming a seepage pit. Rainwater and contaminated pond water, which have accumulated at the lagoon surface, have overflowed on occasion and discharged to the river and adjacent flood plain. An estimated 160 people obtain drinking water from private wells located within 3 miles of the site.

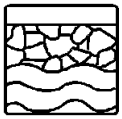
Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal and State actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY	
Proposed Date:	06/24/88
Final Date:	03/29/89
Deleted Date:	

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

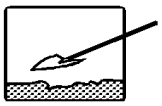
Description: Groundwater contaminants include benzene, toluene, ethylene and xylene (btex) compounds. The burn pond sludge, is contaminated with btex compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (pahs). The soil is contaminated with pahs. Accidental ingestion of soil or sludge could pose a health risk. Since the site lies within the 100-year floodplain, flooding of the site area is a concern.



CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Description: Source Control: In 1990, the potentially responsible parties began conducting an investigation into the nature and extent of the contamination at the site and defining alternatives for cleanup. In 1992, the EPA executed a Record of Decision for the first operable unit selecting a remedy to address the source of contamination, including off-site removal of sludge in the burn pond and in-place bioremediation and soil flushing. In 1992, the responsible party began construction of an interceptor trench on the north and east sides of the burn pond. The first phase of the remedial action continued through March 1996, and included dredging and process of sludge, petroleum recovery, and shipment of dry solids offsite. In 1996, the installation of aeratiors in the pond initiated the second phase of the remedial action, the bioremediation of soils and soil flushing.



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Groundwater: In 1993, the potentially responsible parties began conducting an investigation into the nature and extent of the contamination of the groundwater. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed by the responsible party, and groundwater sampling indicated contamination in the alluvial aquifer only. The lower bedrock aquifer, the Florence Aquifer, which is a drinking water aquifer, was not contaminated. In 1998, the EPA executed a Record of Decision for the second operable unit selecting the no-action alternative. The alluvial aquifer did not provide sufficient yield to be utilized for drinking water and the lower bedrock

drinking water aquifer was not contaminated.

Site Facts: In 1986, the State issued an Administrative Order to Pester to conduct studies on how to close the impoundment. The owner demonstrated that he cannot afford to pay for the clean up and filed for bankruptcy. In 1990, the past owner, Fina, along with Pester, signed a Consent Order with the State in which the companies agreed to conduct clean up investigations. In September 1993, an Order was signed by the State and Fina in which the company agreed to design and implement the source control clean up remedies. In December 1993, an Order was signed by the State and Fina in which the company agreed to perform the clean up investigation of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the groundwater.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

By addressing the source of site contamination, the EPA has determined that the Pester Refining Co. site does not pose an immediate threat to human health and the environment while remaining site cleanup activities are being conducted.

SITE REPOSITORY

Contact the Region 7 Superfund Community Relations Office.

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-4038

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER:	Catherine Barrett
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	barrett.catherine@epa.gov.
	(913) 551-7704
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR:	Hattie Thomas
PHONE NUMBER:	(913) 551-7762
PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
STATE CONTACT:	Kurt Limesand
PHONE NUMBER:	(785) 296-1671

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:	
PACIFIC ISLAND(S):	
	0753
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	04
EPA ORGANIZATION:	SFD-MOKS/SUPR

MODIFICATIONS